



*The National Narcotics Intelligence
Consumers Committee*

Narcotics Intelligence Estimate

**The Supply of Drugs
to the U.S. Illicit Market
From Foreign and Domestic
Sources in 1982 (With
Projections Through 1983)**

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areas, Dilaudid is preferred to heroin. Stringent production and prescription controls along with the high cost have thus far prevented the spread of Dilaudid abuse.

Combinations of heroin and cocaine, known as "speedballs," are increasingly popular among black and Hispanic narcotic abusers. The cocaine is used as a supplement to heroin in this combination and not as a substitute. Another substance frequently associated with polydrug abuse is alcohol. While not an actual heroin substitute, its combination with narcotic substances is extremely dangerous and is believed to be a significant cause of death among addicts.

Developments in Source Countries: Southwest Asia

Opium Production

Opium production was estimated at 700 to 975 metric tons in 1982 in Southwest Asia, where Iran, Afghanistan, and Pakistan are the major producers (see Figure 17). During the past decade, there have been only occasional reports of illicit Turkish opium production. Sources in India estimate that at least 10 percent of the licit opium produced there is diverted to the illicit market or is otherwise lost.

Since 1980, reports from Iran indicate that the opium problem has worsened. In 1982, an estimated 400 to 600 metric tons of opium may have been produced,

Figure 17

Opium Production - Southwest Asia, 1979 - 1982 (metric tons)

	1979	1980	1981	1982
Iran	300	400-600	400-600	400-600
Afghanistan	270-300	200	225	250-300
Pakistan	530-800	75-150	75-125	50-75
Total	1,100-1,400	675-950	700-950	700-975

exceeding the ceiling of about 300 metric tons licensed under the former Shah. Production has expanded in response to growing demand and has flourished primarily because it is concentrated in geographic areas outside the effective control of the central government and because the war with Iraq and internal political problems detract from drug law enforcement. Reports of continuing opium smuggling from Pakistan into eastern Iran suggest that Iranian opium production remains insufficient to satisfy internal demand. While Pakistani and Afghan opium are smuggled into Iran, significant amounts of opium and morphine base are smuggled out of Iran to other markets.

Historically, Pakistan has been an opium producing country. Until 1979, opium was produced licitly for conversion to medicinal drugs as well as to supply registered addicts. However, farmers in the Northwest Frontier Province (NWFP) produced several hundred tons of illicit opium annually. In 1979, all opium production, distribution, and consumption was banned. Subsequently, large stockpiles accumulated, the price of opium dropped from \$200 to \$50 per kilogram, and less and less acreage has been devoted to opium poppies.

Pakistan produced approximately 100 metric tons in 1981, but the large stocks in the NWFP continued to exert downward pressure on the price. By the end of 1982, farmers received only \$30 to \$35 per kilogram for opium. In 1982, only 50 to 75 tons of opium were produced.

There is very little reliable information concerning opium production during 1982 in Afghanistan. Several reports indicate that opium poppy cultivation, after decreasing in the years immediately following the Soviet invasion, may have increased in parts of the country beyond the central government's control. A large share of the opium from Afghanistan is readily available in the markets of Pakistan's NWFP, or reportedly is smuggled into Iran. The 1982 opium crop

in Afghanistan may have exceeded 300 metric tons, roughly the level of the late 1970s.

Consumption

The new drug laws imposed in Iran by the Ayatollah Khomeini may have reduced the opium addiction rate appreciably by the end of 1979, but since then enforcement of these laws has been relaxed considerably. In 1982, heroin and opium were readily available in Tehran.

As a result of Pakistan's recent emergence as a heroin producer, which is discussed below, there has been a sharp increase in domestic abuse of heroin, particularly in producing areas and major cities. The addict population has risen from virtually zero in 1980 to an estimated 50,000 in 1982. There are also at least 300,000 opium abusers.

Raw opium is traditionally eaten by a portion of the Indian population. Much of the opium smuggled into India from Pakistan is believed to be for this purpose.

Laboratories/Refineries

Before 1980, Pakistan was not a significant heroin producer. As the price of opium plummeted and stockpiles accumulated, however, dealers began to manufacture heroin. This more refined and compact drug was easier and more profitable to export, and was therefore also more marketable in Europe and the United States. Heroin trafficking by Pakistanis escalated rapidly during the early 1980s; reported seizures of heroin in Pakistan rose from less than 10 kilograms in 1980 to over 340 kilograms in 1981 and more than 1,680 kilograms in 1982. Most of the laboratories are located in the tribal areas, which are largely beyond the control of the government; however, with economic development, government influence in the tribal areas has improved.

Pakistani laboratory activity is centered in the well-known smuggling village of Landi Kotal, less than 10 miles from the Afghanistan border. In November, 1982, the elders of Landi Kotal agreed to turn over to government officials all narcotics laboratories in the area and to ban heroin production, trafficking, and possession in the Khyber Agency. After initial resistance by some of the laboratory operators, 27 laboratories were surrendered. A number of laboratories continued to function, albeit in a more clandestine manner, and a few are believed to have moved across the border into Afghanistan, where heroin production is a relatively recent phenomenon.

All the heroin laboratories in Pakistan can produce heroin base, or "smoking heroin," at purities in the 65 to 80 percent range. Many of the chemists also can manufacture heroin hydrochloride (injectable heroin) at 80 to 95 percent purity.

India's role has been primarily one of transit and transshipment. Since ample supplies of heroin are available from Pakistan, traffickers have not needed to develop an illicit laboratory capability within India; however, the potential for large-scale illicit heroin production does exist in the country.

Trafficking Trends

Historically, Italian and French traffickers have dominated heroin smuggling from Europe to the United States. During 1982, however, ongoing gang warfare in Sicily and southern Italy disrupted trafficking to some extent. Concurrently, there was increasing involvement of Pakistanis in the international narcotics trade. Opium produced in Pakistan and Afghanistan is now being converted into heroin in the NWFP and shipped, often through India and/or Great Britain, to the United States using air couriers, seamen, and mail parcels. Lebanese heroin traffickers prefer to smuggle heroin to

the United States by air courier; the family ties that extend from Lebanon to the sizable Lebanese communities in Detroit and southern New England facilitate this activity.

Of the 1,100 kilograms of heroin seized in Europe during 1982, 76 percent (840 kilograms) was believed to have originated in Southwest Asia. Nearly every Western European country was affected. The growing availability of Pakistani heroin has led to an increased supply and to lower wholesale prices of good quality heroin in the United States, particularly in east coast cities. There have been incidents of Pakistanis in the United States selling kilograms of high-purity heroin for prices far below those charged by traditional European or American traffickers.

In northwestern Iran, Kurdish separatists are fighting the central government. There also are from one to two million Afghan refugees in Iran. Both the Kurds and the Afghans have been involved in the smuggling of weapons and consumer goods, in addition to drugs. It is thus probable that opium and morphine base continue to enter Iran through these channels en route to Turkey, thereby increasing the amount of Turkish-refined heroin available for export.

Developments in Source Countries: Southeast Asia

Opium Production

In 1982, opium production in the Golden Triangle reached an estimated 707 tons, a 57 ton increase over the 1981 harvest. This was the second bumper crop after the drought years of 1979 and 1980 (see Figure 18). Prices for kilogram quantities of heroin fell during the first eight months of 1982. The 1982/83 opium crop is expected to drop back to the 600 ton range.